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November 16, 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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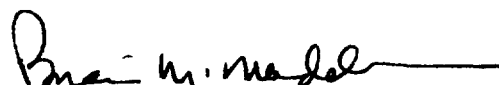
Ms. Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

On behalf of Chowder Broadcast Group LLC, licensee of Station WORC-FM (formerly WXXW(FM)), Webster, Massachusetts, there is transmitted herewith an original and four copies of its Comments in MM Docket No. 98-174 (RM-9356), in which Chowder Broadcast Group LLC has proposed a reallocation of Channel 255A to Spencer, Massachusetts and modification of the license for Station WORC-FM accordingly.

If any additional information is desired in connection with this matter, please contact the undersigned counsel.

Very truly yours,



Brian M. Madden

BMM/tlm
Enclosure

cc: Kathleen Y. Scheuerle (FCC, CIB, ROOM 558-A, 2000 M STREET, NW)
John Karousos, Esq.

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BEFORE THE
Federal Communications Commission
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of Section 73.202(b))
Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations)
(Webster and Spencer, Massachusetts))

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MM Docket No. 98-174
RM-9356

To: Chief, Allocations Branch
Policy and Rules Division
Mass Media Bureau

COMMENTS OF CHOWDER BROADCAST GROUP LLC

Chowder Broadcast Group LLC ("Chowder"), licensee of FM broadcast Station WORC-FM (formerly WXXW(FM)), Webster, Massachusetts, by its attorneys, hereby submits these comments in support of its petition to amend 47 C.F.R. § 73.202(b), the FM Table of Allotments, to reallocate Channel 255A to Spencer, Massachusetts as its first local transmission service and to modify the license of Station WORC-FM accordingly.¹

By way of background, on April 30, 1998, Chowder filed with the Commission a Petition for Rule Making proposing the reallocation of Channel 255 from Webster, Massachusetts to Spencer, Massachusetts and modification of the license of Station WORC-FM. In the *NPRM*, the Commission indicated that the public interest would be advanced by consideration of the reallocation as requested and sought additional information from Chowder "to provide [a]...

¹ *In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Spencer and Webster, Massachusetts), Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 98-174, RM-9356 (September 25, 1998) ("NPRM").*

showing that Spencer has the requisite indicia to qualify as a community for allotment purposes.”² This submission demonstrates that the town of Spencer is a community for FM allotment purposes, and reaffirms Chowder’s intention to file an application to modify the facilities of Station WORC-FM consistent with the reallocation of the Station’s channel to Spencer and, upon grant of such application, to construct and operate Station WORC-FM with its new facilities as Spencer’s first local transmission service.

As an initial matter, the Commission noted in its *NPRM* that Spencer has a post office and a ZIP code³ and that Spencer is a Census Designated Place (“CDP”) having a 1990 U.S. Census population of 6,306 people.⁴ In similar cases, the Commission has stated that CDP designation gives rise to the presumption of community status for the locus in question.⁵ In the case of Spencer, the presumption of community status created by its CDP designation is reinforced by political, social, and commercial organizations that identify themselves as being of, from, or for the benefit of Spencer and its residents. The presence of these political, social, and

² *NPRM* at ¶ 3.

³ *NPRM* at ¶ 6.

⁴ *NPRM* at ¶ 3. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services lists the 1996 population of Spencer as 12,091. Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, *At A Glance Report for Spencer (11/03/98)* (the “Revenue Report”), a copy of which is attached.

⁵ See, e.g., *Amelia, Louisiana*, 12 FCC Rcd 13930 at ¶ 6 (1997).

commercial organizations, which are described in the paragraphs that follow, conclusively establishes Spencer's community status for purposes of FM allotment.⁶

Spencer has existed as an incorporated town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since 1753.⁷ It is governed by a five-member Board of Selectmen, who are chosen by popular election annually in May.⁸ The town also holds open town meetings.⁹ Spencer's town government has permanent offices, which are located in the Spencer Town Hall.¹⁰

The town government administers a budget which accounted for \$9,799,836.00 in expenditures for the 1997 fiscal year.¹¹ This budget supports a number of services designed specifically to serve Spencer residents, including the Spencer Police Department, the Spencer Fire Department, and public works such as highway maintenance, water service, and the Spencer

⁶ See, e.g., *Gleneden Beach, Oregon*, 2 FCC Rcd 6535 (1987) (finding community status upon showing of social, economic and cultural indicia).

⁷ Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, *Spencer Community Profile*. ("Community Profile"), a copy of which is attached. The Commission has stated that "[g]enerally, if a community is incorporated or is listed in the U.S. Census, that is sufficient to satisfy its ['community'] status." *Homerville, Lakeland and Statenville, Georgia*, 5 FCC Rcd 2685 at ¶2 (1990).

⁸ Community Profile.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Spencer Town Hall; 157 Main Street; Spencer, MA 01562.

¹¹ *Revenue Report*.

Sewage Treatment Plant.¹² Spencer's town budget also funds a substantial portion of the Spencer-East Brookfield School District, a regional school district which operates three primary schools, one junior high, and one high school located in Spencer.¹³

Spencer residents are served by a variety of social, cultural, and recreational outlets. Spencer has a public library.¹⁴ There are a number of churches, including the Spencer Congregational Church and Spencer Methodist Church. There are also a number of recreational facilities, such as the Spencer State Forest and the Spencer Fair Grounds.¹⁵ The Spencer Recreation Committee, which has offices in the Spencer Town Hall, oversees many of the town's recreational and cultural activities.¹⁶

Finally, there are many commercial and retail establishments which identify themselves specifically with Spencer, such as Spencer Products (which, with 63 employees, is Spencer's third-largest employer¹⁷), Spencer Motor Sales, and Spencer Savings Bank. There is also Spencer Shopper's Village, a large open-air shopping mall containing a supermarket and

¹² *Community Profile.*

¹³ Massachusetts Department of Education, *School Directory, 767 Spencer-E. Brookfield*, a copy of which is attached.

¹⁴ *Community Profile.*

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

several other retailers. Furthermore, there are a number of other retail establishments that are designed to serve the local population of Spencer, including six food stores, four gas stations, fourteen eating and drinking places, and two drug and proprietary stores.¹⁸


The above-mentioned commercial, social, economic, cultural and religious organizations, municipal services, and governmental units all identify themselves specifically with the community of Spencer and are intended to serve Spencer's residents. Under established Commission precedent, these entities meet the indicia of community status for allotment purposes. Accordingly, Spencer is a community for FM allotment purposes, and the public interest will be served by the Commission's adoption of an order reallocating Channel 255A to Spencer, Massachusetts as its first local transmission service.

Chowder reiterates that it will, promptly after the reallocation of Channel 255A to Spencer as requested, file an application to modify and relocate the facilities of Station WORC-FM in a manner consistent with the Commission's rules and that it will promptly construct the new facilities of the Station following the grant of that application, thereby providing Spencer with its first local transmission service. Chowder believes that the changes in the FM Table of Allotments requested hereby will serve the public interest for the reasons set forth herein and in the Petition for Rule Making, which is incorporated in these comments by reference.

In view of the foregoing, Chowder respectfully requests that the Commission adopt the changes to the FM Table of Allotments proposed by Chowder, reallocate Channel 255A to Spencer, Massachusetts, and modify the license for Station WORC-FM accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

CHOWDER BROADCAST GROUP LLC

By: 
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Colin D. Horst

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Its Attorneys

November 16, 1998

Commonwealth of Massachusetts**Commonwealth Communities
Town of Spencer
Worcester County**

Items marked as PDF files  require [Acrobat Reader](#).

[Massachusetts home page](#)

Spencer information from state agencies:

- [At-A-Glance report \(DOR-DLS\)](#)
- [Community Profile \(DHCD\)](#)
- [Employment and Wages](#)
- [Spencer Public Library Information](#)
- [Spencer School Directory](#)
- [Spencer School Profile](#)
- [State Aid - Cherry Sheet FY1998](#)
- [State Aid - Cherry Sheet FY1999](#)
- [State Aid - Spencer East Brookfield School Dist. FY1998](#)
- [State Aid - Spencer East Brookfield School Dist. FY1999](#)
- [State Legislators](#)
- [Valuation \(Real Estate\) certification statistics !\[\]\(0f48f43ebd21f231a458c96216dbf4d1_img.jpg\)](#)

- [alphabetical list](#)
- [County list](#)
- [Unofficial names](#)
- [Link requests](#)

Regional information from state agencies:

- [Dept. of Environmental Protection Central Region](#)
- [Regional Hazardous Materials Response Locations](#)
- [State Police Troop](#)
- [The Massachusetts Prevention Centers](#)
- [Worcester County Registry of Deeds](#)

Information specific to Spencer can also be found within the following comprehensive listings:

- [Civil Rights Officer Directory](#)
- [Department of Environmental Management Forest and Parks](#)
- [Department of Mental Retardation Area Office Locator](#)
- [Department of Public Health District Offices](#)
- [District Registry of Deeds Directory](#)
- [Division of Employment and Training Service Centers](#)
- [Division of Environmental Law Enforcement](#)
- [Division of Fisheries and Wildlife District Offices](#)
- [Division of Marine Fisheries Offices](#)
- [Emergency Management Directors for MA Cities and Towns](#)
- [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#)
- [Massachusetts Office of Business Development Offices](#)
- [Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism](#)
- [MassHighway District Offices](#)
- [Metropolitan District Commission](#)
- [Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Offices](#)
- [Private Counsel Bar Advocate Contract Offices](#)
- [Public Defender Offices](#)

- [Registry of Motor Vehicles: Automobile Inspection Stations](#)
- [Registry of Motor Vehicles: Branches](#)
- [Registry of Motor Vehicles: Motorcycle Inspection Stations](#)
- [Search for Your Ward, Precinct and Polling Place](#)



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SPENCER

Worcester County

SEAL
NARRATIVE
GEOGRAPHY
GOVERNMENT
DEMOGRAPHICS
HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS
EDUCATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TRANSPORTATION
CULTURE AND RECREATION
MISCELLANEOUS
MUNICIPAL FINANCE



NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Spencer is located in central Worcester County, twenty minutes west of Worcester and about forty five minutes from Springfield. Largely residential, Spencer has been a supplier of workers in all categories for nearly every industry in the greater Worcester area. Ease of travel to all sections of the county makes Spencer a desirable area in which to live. Route 31 gives access to Holden, Fitchburg, Leominster in the north; Charlton, Oxford and Southbridge in the south. Route 49 gives easy access to Sturbridge, Brimfield, Southbridge, the Mass Turnpike and Interstate 86 to Connecticut. Route 9 leads westerly through the Brookfields and Ware to the Amherst Campus of the University of Massachusetts and easterly to Worcester, Shrewsbury, Northborough, and Westborough. In addition to its own small commercial airfield on Paxton Road, Spencer is less than twenty minutes from Worcester airport and the industrial complex located next to it.

Spencer is also home for several large dairy farms, indicating that the town's fertile soil is not only suited for residential use. Several major lakes and ponds are also located in the town, including Stiles Reservoir, Thompson Pond, Lake Whittemore, Cranberry Meadow, Sugden Reservoir and Brooks Pond, providing recreational boating, swimming and fishing for the public.

Settled in 1717 by Nathaniel Wood, Spencer was incorporated as a town in 1753. It has been established as a district from a part of Leicester. Its name was assigned by Lieutenant Governor Spencer Phipps who had signed the order establishing the district. In 1784, Spencer was a major stopping place on the Old Boston Post Road's stage route between Boston and Hartford, and on to New York. Spencer's first mill was built in 1740 on Seven Mile River, the greatest source of water power in the town. In 1811, Josiah Green began making shoes, and in 1834 he built a factory. The Prouty family began to make shoes in 1820, and built their factory in 1855. In 1812, Elliot Prouty had begun to "draw" wire in a mill he had built. His business flourished in his family until 1916, when it merged with Wickwire Steel Company. At one time there were 11 factories and 26 buildings for wire drawing.

The Howe family of Spencer did much to make the town famous in the annals of ingenious Americans. William Howe of Spencer developed a wooden truss

bridge named for him, and his brother Tyler Howe, patented a spring bed. Their nephew, Elias Howe, Jr., may well have eclipsed them when he invented the lockstitch sewing machine.

(Seal and narrative supplied by community)

Department of Housing and Community Development,
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Oakham on the north, Paxton on the northeast, Leicester on the east, Charlton on the south, and East Brookfield and North Brookfield on the west. Spencer is 11 miles west of Worcester and 51 miles west of Boston.

Total Area: 34.05 sq. miles

Land Area: 32.85 sq. miles

Population: 11,645

Density: 354 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Buffumville Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....21.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.4"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Leicester, Paxton, North Brookfield, East Brookfield

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester

Department of Housing and Community Development,
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 885-7500

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1753

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
Total Registered	6,085	
Democrats	2,194	36.1 %
Republicans	836	13.7 %
Other parties	6	0.1 %
Unenrolled Voters	3,049	50.1 %

Legislators

US Senator	Edward M. Kennedy
US Senator	John F. Kerry
US Congressman . .2nd Dist..	Richard E. Neal
State Senator	Stephen M. Brewer
State Rep	David H. Tuttle

Department of Housing and Community Development,
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director



DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Trends (M.I.S.E.R.)

	Persons	% change
1980	10,774	
1990	11,645	8.1
2000	12,600	8.2
2010	13,264	5.3

Persons by Sex (1990 US Census)

Male	5,743
Female	5,902

Age Distribution (1990 US Census)

	Persons	%
Under 5	893	7.7

5-14	1,715	14.7
15-44	5,605	48.1
45-64	2,096	18.0
65 & over	1,336	11.5

Vital Statistics (Dept. of Public Health 1995)

		Statewide
1993 Resident Births	172	
per 1,000 women 15-44	60.2	57.9
1993 Resident Deaths	78	
per 100,000 residents	644	913

Race & Ethnicity (1990 US Census)

	Persons	%
White	11,466	98.5
Black	25	0.2
Am. Indian, Eskimo or Aleut	25	0.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	28	0.2
Hispanic Origin	100	0.9
Other	1	0.0

Households (1990 US Census)

		% change
1980	3,708	
1990	4,321	+16.5

Household Size (1990 US Census)

2.66 persons per household

Households by Type (1990 US Census)

	Households	%
Married Couple Family	2,614	60.5
Male Householder	134	3.1
Female Householder	393	9.1
Non-Family Household	1,180	27.3

Income Distribution (1990 US Census)

	Households	%
Less than \$5,000	117	2.7
\$5,000 - \$9,999	520	12.0
\$10,000 - \$24,999	928	21.5
\$25,000 - \$34,999	706	16.3
\$35,000 - \$49,999	875	20.2
\$50,000 - \$74,999	814	18.8
\$75,000 - \$99,999	307	7.1
\$100,000 or more	85	2.0

Median Household Income \$33,201

state rank 266

% of state average 89.9%

Per Capita Income \$14,222

state rank 281
% of state average 82.6%

Sources of Income (1990 US Census)

	Number of Households	Average Income
Wage & salary	3,433	\$40,637
Nonfarm self-employed	359	14,945
Farm self-employed	48	3,077
Social Security	1,245	7,098
Public assistance	311	4,100
Retirement	557	5,792
Interest	1,576	3,194
Other	534	3,108

Poverty Status (1990 US Census)

		Statewide
Persons for whom status determined	11,596	5,812,415
Below poverty level	876	519,339
	7.6%	8.9%

Department of Housing and Community Development,
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Housing Units (1990 US Census)

	Units	%
Total Units	4,770	
Total Occupied	4,321	
owner occupied	2,635	61.0
renter occupied	1,686	39.0
Total vacant	449	
for sale	27	6.0
for rent	95	21.2
other vacant	327	72.8
Owner Vacancy Rate		1.0
Rental Vacancy Rate		5.3
Median Value (owner occupied)		\$127,100
Median Contract Rent (renter occupied)		\$420

Value: Value is the Census respondent's estimate of how much the property, including lot, would sell for if it were for sale.

Type of Structure (1990 US Census)

	Units	%
Single Unit	2,785	58.4
2-4 Units	1,337	28.0
5 or More Units	584	12.2
Other	64	1.3

Year Structure Built (1990 US Census)

	Units	%
1989-March 1990	68	1.4
1980-1988	417	8.7
1970-1979	979	20.5
1960-1969	702	14.7
1950-1959	494	10.4
1940-1949	267	5.6
1939 or earlier	1,843	38.6

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman)

	Number	% change
1990	134	-0.7
1991	114	-14.9
1992	143	25.4
1993	148	3.5
1994	141	-4.7

Home Sales & Home Prices: Data for all transactions between \$25,000 and \$1,000,000. Condominium sales and prices are included.

Median Sales Price (Banker & Tradesman)

	Price	% change
1990	111,500	+4.2
1991	89,000	-20.2
1992	95,000	6.7
1993	95,000	0.0
1994	92,000	-3.2

Residential Building Permits (US Census Bureau 1994)

(New Construction)

	Single Family	Multi Family
1990	23	0
1991	31	28
1992	36	25
1993	68	19
1994	70	15

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1993)

Aggregate Number	218
% Subsidized	4.80

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the

municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1993)

Conventional State	194
Conventional Federal	0

Rental Assistance (DHCD 1994)

State (MRVP)	16
Federal (Section 8)	20

Department of Housing and Community Development,
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director



EDUCATION

Student Population (Dept. of Education)

Total students 91/92		2,193
at public schools	96.2%	
at private schools	3.8%	

Pupil Cost (Dept. of Education)

Integrated Per Pupil Cost 91/92		\$4,288
state average	\$5,034	

Educational Attainment (1990 US Census)

High School Graduate or Higher	75.6%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	13.7%

School District Membership (Dept. of Education)

Spencer East Brookfield	(K-12)
-------------------------	--------

School Enrollment (Dept. of Education)

	Enrollment 94/95	Change 1981-95	Statewide
Spencer East Brookfield	2,307	173.0%	-10.2%

Dropout Rate (Dept. of Education)

	Rate 93/94	Statewide
Spencer East Brookfield	3.7%	3.7%

Average Teacher Salary (Dept. of Education)

Spencer East Brookfield

Salary 93/94	Statewide
\$40,288	\$39,023

Public Schools (Dept. of Education)

Spencer East Brookfield

Grove Street	K-03
Lake Street	K-04
Memorial	K-05
Pleasant St	K-03
Maple St	05-06
West Main Street	K-03
David Prouty Jr High	07-08
Lashway J H	06-08
David Prouty High	09-12

Colleges and Universities (Higher Education Coordinating Council)

None

For further school district information contact:

Information & Outreach Services
 Department of Education
 350 Main Street
 Malden, MA 02148
 Phone: (781) 388-3300

Department of Housing and Community Development,
 Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC BASE

Labor Force (1990 US Census)

Employed	5,756
Unemployed	458
Unemployment Rate	7.4%
statewide	6.7%

Industry Groups of Residents (1990 US Census)

Agriculture	104
Mining	12
Construction	376
Manufacturing	1,310
Transportation & Communication	285
Wholesale & Retail Trade	1,295
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	477
Government	111
Services	1,786

Total 5,756

EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL & SALES

Average Annual Employment by Place of Work (Dept. of Employment & Training 1993)

Agriculture	43
Mining	C
Construction	185
Manufacturing	1,246
Transportation & Communication	50
Wholesale & Retail Trade	866
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	111
Government	438
Services	251
Total	3208

Total Annual Payroll (\$,000) 74,651

Average Annual Wage (\$) 23,270

Number of Establishments 212

Employment & Wages: Data for employment and wages covered by unemployment compensation. Data is confidential (identified with a "C") if there are less than three reporting units in the total, or if one unit accounts for 80 % or more of the total. Reporting problems of multi-location employers may result in some over or under reporting.

Largest Employers (Supplied by community 1993)

<input type="checkbox"/>		# employees
	Flexcon Company, Inc.	878
	Mercury Wire Products	115
	Spencer Products	63

Retail Establishments (US Census of Retail Trade 1992)

Establishments	49
Sales (\$,000)	90,009
Per Capita Sales (\$)	7,729
Paid Employees in work week	783

Retail Sales by Retail Group (US Census of Retail Trade 1992)

	Establishments	Sales (\$,000)
Bldg. materials, garden supplies	3	1,333
General merchandise	3	D
Food stores	6	24,421
Automotive dealers	3	D
Gasoline service stations	4	5,118
Apparel, accessories stores	2	D
Furniture, home furnishings	2	D
Eating & drinking places	14	5,744
Drug & proprietary stores	2	D
Misc. retail stores	10	8,140

Retail Establishments & Sales: Data is reported for municipalities of 10,000 inhabitants or more. Sales is withheld (indicated with a "D") where it would disclose the operations of individual companies or businesses.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

(Supplied by community 1993)

Worcester Area Chamber of Commerce

Department of Housing and Community Development,
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 9, which traverses Massachusetts in a roughly E-W direction, and State Route 31 running N-S.

Rail

Conrail provides freight rail service through Spencer. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

Bus

Spencer is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) but does not receive services.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.

Commuting to Work (1990 US Census)

Drove alone	81.4%
Carpools	12.7%
Public transportation	1.1%
Other means	1.3%
Walked or worked at home	3.5%

Average time to work (mins) 25.7

LAND USE CLASSIFICATION

* (Office of Environmental Affairs 1985)

	Acres	
Residential	2,181	10.0%
Commercial	102	0.5%
Industrial	56	0.3%
Transportation	25	0.1%
Agriculture	3,480	16.0%
Urban Open Land	104	0.5%
Recreation	75	0.3%
Water	754	3.5%
Other	14,956	68.8%

* Cape Cod communities updated 1992

ZONING REGULATIONS

(Supplied by community 1993)

	Single Family	Two Family	Multi Family
Minimum lot size (sf)	45,000	45,000	10,000 + 2,500 per d.u. in excess of 2
Minimum lot width or frontage (ft)	200	200	80

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

(Supplied by community 1993)

Comprehensive Plans	No
Rent Control	No
Condominium Controls	Yes
Groundwater Protection	Yes
Subdivision Control Laws	Yes
Site Plan Approval Required	Yes
Other Growth Limits	Yes
Zoning Bylaws	

Department of Housing and Community Development,
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

(Board of Library Commissioners 1993/94)

Richard Sugden Public Library

Pleasant St., P.O. Box I
(508) 885-7513

		Statewide
Total Holdings	32,959	
per capita	2.79	4.91
Total Circulation	63,233	
per capita	5.20	7.02

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

Recreation Department

(Supplied by community 1993)

Recreation Committee
Town Hall, 157 Main Street
Spencer, MA 01562

Recreational Facilities

(Department of Environment Management)

Largest recreational sites, and activities:

Spencer State Forest (1,048 acres)
atv motoring, boating-non motor, cross country skiing, fresh water fishing, fresh water swimming, general play, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, nature observing, organized event, picnicking, sight seeing, snowmobiling, walking/jogging

Moose Hill W.M.A. (552 acres)
boating-non motor, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, fresh water fishing, hiking, hunting, motor boating, nature observing, picnicking, sight seeing, walking/jogging

Montachusett Girl Scout (290 acres)
baseball/softball, boating-non motor, camping, cross country skiing, fresh water fishing, fresh water swimming, hiking, ice skating, nature observing, organized event, other-team

4 Chimneys W.M.A. (200 acres)
cross country skiing, general play, hiking, hunting, nature observing, picnicking, walking/jogging

Burncoat Pond (126 acres)
hiking, nature observing, walking/jogging

Worcester County 4H Camp (100 acres)
baseball/softball, basketball, bicycling, boating-non motor, camping, cross country skiing, football/soccer, fresh water fishing, fresh water swimming, general play, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, ice skating, nature observing, org-natural history, organized event, picnicking, snowmobiling, target archery, walking/jogging

The Woods (65 acres)

boating-non motor, cross country skiing, fresh water fishing,
fresh water swimming, hiking, motor boating, picnicking,
snowmobiling

Spencer Fair Grounds (39 acres)
camping, general play, organized event

Department of Housing and Community Development,
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Lincoln Hill Manor Rest Home
St. Joseph's Abbey Resident Center

UTILITIES

(Office of Business Development)

Electric	Massachusetts Electric Co.
Gas	Boston Gas Co.
Sewer	Spencer STP
Water Sources	Ground, Surface

PUBLIC SAFETY

(Office of Public Safety 1993)

		Statewide
Total Crimes Reported	n/a	
rate per 1,000 persons		47.95
change from 1992 (%)		-5
Violent Crimes	n/a	
rate per 1,000 persons		7.13
change from 1992 (%)		-3
Property Crimes	n/a	

rate per 1,000 persons
change from 1992 (%)

40.82
-5

WELFARE ASSISTANCE

(Department of Public Welfare 1994)

Cases

Cash Assistance

Refugee Assistance	0
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Aged	55
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)	151
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Disabled	143
Emergency Aid (formerly General Relief)	23
Medicaid Only	
Aged	21
Families	68
Disabled	40
Children	6
Food Stamps Only	88
Total	595

DPW caseloads are compiled by zip code. The cases shown are for the zip code(s) in which the community is located, and may include cases for other communities with the same code.

Department of Housing and Community Development,
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director



MUNICIPAL FINANCE

At A Glance Report for SPENCER (06/27/97)

Massachusetts Department of Revenue - Division of Local Services

County:	WORCESTER
Kind of Community:	Rural Economic Center
School Structure:	Non-Operating
Regional School Districts:	SPENCER EAST BROOKFIELD
Form of Government:	Selectmen
	Open Town Meeting
1994 Population	11,679
1996 Labor Force	6,016
1989 Per Capita Income	14,222
Population Per Square Mile	352
1996 Average Unemployment Rate	4.9
1996 EQV Per Capita	41,306

Tax Classification	FY97 Tax Rate	FY97 Tax Levy	FY97 Assessed Value
Residential	11.06	4,247,240	384,018,100
Open Space			
Commercial	11.06	417,996	37,793,500
Industrial	11.06	218,999	19,801,000
Personal Property	11.06	136,832	12,371,774

Total 5,021,067 453,984,374

FY97 Revenue Sources		% of Total
Tax Levy	5,021,067	52.1
State Aid	1,683,038	17.5
Local Receipts	2,176,082	22.6
Other Available	749,477	7.8
Total	9,629,664	

FY97 Proposition 2 1/2 Levy Capacity	
New Growth	116,928
Override	
Debt Exclusion	226,284
Levy Limit	5,023,888
Excess Capacity	2,821
Ceiling	11,349,609
Override Capacity	6,552,005

FY97 Cherry Sheet	
Estimated State Aid	
Education Aid	105,156
General Government	1,574,823
Total Receipts	1,679,979
Total Assessments	82,652
Net State Aid	1,597,327

FY96 Schedule A - Actual Revenues and Expenditures

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects
Revenues	7,602,625	1,399,930	447,686
Expenditures	7,603,922	1,393,186	1,477,556
Police	622,127		
Fire	288,659		
Education	3,376,702	0	
Public Works	1,193,893	1,279,017	1,362,294
All Other	2,122,541	114,169	115,262

	Enterprise Fund	Trust Revenue	Total All Funds
Revenues		27,048	9,477,289
Expenditures		17,378	10,492,042
Police			622,127
Fire			288,659
Education			3,376,702
Public Works			3,835,204
All Other		17,378	2,369,350

Reserves		Revaluation	
7/1/96 Free Cash	225,820	Most Recent	- FY95
FY97 Overlay Reserve	113,565	Next Scheduled	- FY98
FY96 Stabilization Fund	149,132		

FY97 Average Tax Bill

Number of Single Family Parcels	2,718
Assessed Value of Single Family	282,430,800
Average Single Family Tax Bill	1,149

If you have any questions or comments about this report or would like more information about the Municipal Data Bank, please contact:

Burt Lewis (617-626-2358)
or John Sanguinet (617-626-2355)

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue
FY97 Estimated Receipts For SPENCER (As of 07/09/96)

A. EDUCATION:

Distributions and Reimbursements

1. Chapter 70	94,745
2. School Transportation Programs	10,411
3. School Construction	
4. Retired Teachers' Pensions	
5. Tuition of State Wards	

Offset Items - Reserve For Direct Expenditures

6. Racial Equality	
7. School Lunch	

Subtotal, All Education Items	105,156
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B. GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Distributions and Reimbursements

1. Lottery, Beano and Charity Games	1,340,201
2. Additional Assistance	
3. Highway Fund	149,778
4. Local Share of Racing Taxes	
5. Regional Public Libraries	
6. Police Career Incentive	2,239
7. Urban Renewal projects	
8. Veteran's Benefits	9,603
9. Exemptions: Vets, Blind & Surv. Spouse	6,337
10. Exemptions: Elderly	38,639
11. State Owned Land	14,799

Offset Items - Reserve For Direct Expenditure:

12. Public Libraries	13,227
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Subtotal, All General Government	1,574,823
C. TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS FISCAL 1997	1,679,979

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Revenue
FY97 Estimated Charges For SPENCER (As of 07/09/96)

	Estimates	Prior Year Underestimates	Prior Year Overestimates
A. County Assessment, County Tax	12,683		
B. STATE ASSESSMENTS AND CHARGES:			
1. Supervision of Retirement			
2. Motor Vehicle Excises			
3. Retired Employees Hlth Ins.			
4. Retired Teachers Health Ins.	33,719		835
5. Mosquito Control Projects			
6. Air Pollution Districts	2,215		
7. Metropolitan Area Planning			
8. Old Colony Planning Council			
9. RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge		11,440	
Sub-Total, State Assessments	35,934	11,440	835
C. TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES:			
1. MBTA			
2. Boston Metro Transit			
3. Regional Transit	27,574	1,988	
Sub-Total, Transp. Assessments	27,574	1,988	
D. ANNUAL CHARGES AGAINST RECEIPTS:			
1. Multi-Year Repayments			
2. Special Education	6,461		2,224
3. Energy Conservation			
4. STRAP Repayments			
Sub-Total, Charges	6,461		2,224
E. TOTAL EST. CHARGES, FY97	82,652	13,428	3,059
F. NET CHARGES, FY97 (Col. 1 + Col. 2 less Col. 3)			93,021

For further municipal finance information contact:

Division of Local Services
Department of Revenue
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202
Phone: (617) 727-7300

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Department of Housing and Community Development,
Argeo Paul Cellucci, Governor, Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.

At A Glance Report for SPENCER (11/03/98)**Massachusetts Department of Revenue - Division of Local Services**

County:	WORCESTER
Kind of Community:	Rural Economic Center
School Structure:	Non-Operating
Regional School Districts:	SPENCER EAST BROOKFIELD
Form of Government:	Selectmen
	Open Town Meeting
1996 Population	12,091
1996 Labor Force	6,016
1989 Per Capita Income	14,222
Population Per Square Mile	365
1996 Average Unemployment Rate	4.9
1996 EQV Per Capita	39,899

Tax Classification	FY98 Tax Rate	FY98 Tax Levy	FY98 Assessed Value
Residential	11.42	4,487,277	392,931,400
Open Space			
Commercial	11.42	439,543	38,488,900
Industrial	11.42	221,868	19,428,000
Personal Property	11.42	194,726	17,051,338
Total		5,343,414	467,899,638

FY98 Revenue Sources		% of Total
Tax Levy	5,343,414	52.2
State Aid	1,849,283	18.1
Local Receipts	2,359,087	23.0
Other Available	687,985	6.7
Total	10,239,769	

FY98 Proposition 2 1/2 Levy Capacity

New Growth	91,662
Override	
Debt Exclusion	338,121
Levy Limit	5,347,327
Excess Capacity	3,913
Ceiling	11,697,491
Override Capacity	6,688,285

**FY99 Cherry Sheet
Estimated State Aid**

Education Aid	171,122
General Government	1,869,686

Total Receipts	2,040,808
Total Assessments	81,044
Net State Aid	1,959,764

FY97 Schedule A - Actual Revenues and Expenditures

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects
Revenues	7,724,049	1,644,076	144,630
Expenditures	7,698,684	1,954,089	146,353
Police	551,875		
Fire	140,394		
Education	3,753,539	0	33,246
Public Works	1,252,072	1,881,963	
All Other	2,000,804	72,126	113,107

	Enterprise Fund	Trust Revenue	Total All Funds
Revenues		18,710	9,531,465
Expenditures		710	9,799,836
Police			551,875
Fire			140,394
Education			3,786,785
Public Works			3,134,035
All Other		710	2,186,747

Reserves	Revaluation
7/1/1997 Free Cash	338,821 Most Recent - FY98
FY98 Overlay Reserve	179,981 Next Scheduled - FY01
FY97 Stabilization Fund	44,151

FY98 Average Tax Bill

Number of Single Family Parcels	2,733
Assessed Value of Single Family	293,041,900
Average Single Family Tax Bill	1,224

If you have any questions or comments about this report or would like more information about the Municipal Data Bank, please contact:

Dora Brown (617-626-2360)

Debbie DePerri (617-626-2359)

Stan Nyberg (617-626-2377)

Return to the MDM/TAB Page



SCHOOL DIRECTORY

767 SPENCER-E BROOKFIELD

Public Schools

Click on System Name for School District Profile

Click on School Name for School Profile

No.	System or School	Grade Span	Supt. or Principal Name	Address <i>Click for Map</i>	Telephone/ Fax Number	Email Address
767	<u>Spencer-E Brookfield</u>	K-12	John Begley	<u>302 Main Spencer, MA 01562-1856</u>	(508)885-8500	
	Dir Pupil Serv		Vincent Matulaitis	<u>302 Main Spencer, MA 01562-1856</u>	(508)885-8515 (508)885-8504	
	Business Admin		Roger Pontbriand	<u>302 Main Spencer, MA 01562-1856</u>	(508)885-8500 x 12 (508)885-8504	
010	<u>Lake Street</u>	K-03	Michael P Daniels	<u>Lake Spencer, MA 01562-1898</u>	(508)885-8517	
011	<u>Memorial</u>	K-03	Eileen Prizio	<u>Connie Mack Dr East Brookfield, MA 01515-1802</u>	(508)885-8536	
020	<u>Maple St</u>	04-06	David Police	<u>68 Maple Spencer, MA 01562-2585</u>	(508)885-8529	
025	<u>West Main Street</u>	K	Marie McDevitt	<u>West Main Spencer, MA 01562-2134</u>	(508)885-8535	
030	<u>David Prouty Intermediate</u>	04-06	Paul Bedard	<u>195 Main Spencer, MA 01562-1793</u>	(508)885-8524	

035	<u>Lashway Intermediate</u>	04-06	Eileen Prizio	<u>School East Brookfield, MA 01515</u>	(508)885-8537	
415	<u>Knox Trail Junior High</u>	07-08	J Michael Staiti	<u>73 Ash Spencer, MA 01562-2349</u>	(508)885-8550	
505	<u>David Prouty High</u>	09-12	Vito Filipkowski	<u>302 Main Spencer, MA 01562-1856</u>	(508)885-8505 (508)885-7061	

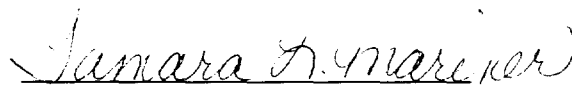
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Tamara L. Mariner, hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing
"Comments of Chowder Broadcast Group LLC," were hand-delivered this 16th day of November
1998 to the following:

John A. Karousos, Chief
Mass Media Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W.
Room 554
Washington, D.C. 20554

Kathleen Scheuerle
Allocations Branch
Audio Services Division
Mass Media Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
2000 M Street, N.W.
Room 558-A
Washington, D.C. 20554


Tamara L. Mariner